

QA-607
Hilary D. and Hilda I. Kelley House
2507 Main Street
Chester
Queen Anne's County

Constructed 1925
Private

Located in Chester, on Kent Island, the Hilary D. and Hilda I. Kelley House is a two-and-one-half-story, frame, four-square dwelling built in 1925. A concrete-block garage stands northeast of the house.

The Kelley House displays a typical American four-square form, which, like the earlier I-house form, was popular nationally. In Queen Anne's County, four-squares are predominately found in towns like Chester, rather in the more rural parts of the county. The house was built in 1925 by Hilary D. Kelley and his wife Hilda I. Kelley, on land deeded to them that year by Mr. Kelley's parents, Rowena and Henry R. Kelley. Responding to the proliferation of the automobile in the late 1920s, Hilary Kelly and his brother Herman opened and ran "Kelley's Garage," which was located on the northeast corner of Maryland Route 18 (Main Street) and Maryland Route 552 (Dominion Road).

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-607

1. Name of Property

historic Hilary D. and Hilda I. Kelley House
other

2. Location

street and number 2507 Main Street not for publication
city, town Chester, MD 21619 X vicinity
county Queen Anne's County

3. Owner of Property

name Kitty's Corner, LLC
street and number 29879 Sparkie Lane telephone
city, town Queen Anne state MD zip code 21657-3237

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Queen Anne's County Courthouse liber SM 1413 folio 115
city, town Centreville tax map 57 tax parcel 154 tax ID number 04-026772

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Contributing 2
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	Noncontributing 0
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	Contributing 0
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	Noncontributing 0
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	Contributing 0
		<input type="checkbox"/> education	Noncontributing 0
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	Contributing 2
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	Noncontributing 0
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	Contributing 0
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	Noncontributing 0
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
0

7. Description

Inventory No. QA-607

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Summary

Located in Chester, on Kent Island, the Hilary D. and Hilda I. Kelley House is a two-and-one-half-story, frame, four-square dwelling built in 1925. A concrete-block garage stands northeast of the house.

Description

The Hilary D. and Hilda I. Kelley House faces south towards Main Street (MD Route 18) in Chester, on Kent Island in Queen Anne's County. It sits a little over one-half mile southeast of the center of Chester. The 1925 house is a two-and-one-half-story, two-bay, frame, four-square dwelling. It sits on a level, grassy lot, with trees and underbrush lining the west and north property lines, and a marsh bordering it to the east. The land across Main Street from the house is occupied by agricultural fields. A masonry garage is located to the east of the house.

The Kelley House sits on a continuous, concrete-block foundation, and has a pyramidal roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. The front roof slope displays a shed dormer. A one-story, hipped-roof porch spans the three-bay façade. It has square, replacement, wood posts, a poured concrete floor, a concrete-block foundation, and a wood ceiling. The house is clad in aluminum siding, and has an aluminum boxed cornice. A one-story, one-bay, frame addition is attached to the house's north (rear) elevation.

The Kelley House's two-bay façade comprises a doorway in the first story's west bay, and paired, one-over-one, wood, double-hung windows with aluminum surrounds and shutters in the first story's east bay. The front entry features a wood door with one light over three square panels that are over two rectangular panels. Two matching windows occupy each of the façade's second-story bays. Two, four-light, fixed, wood windows occupy the front shed dormer. On the two-bay east elevation, the two windows on each story match those on the façade, but they are not paired. The west elevation features two ganged, six-light, metal casement windows in the north bay of the first story, and two windows in the second story that match those on the façade.

Secondary Resources (buildings, sites, structures, objects.)

Garage

A contemporaneous two-bay, one-story, concrete-block garage sits to the northeast of the Kelley House. It has a front-gable roof clad with corrugated metal, and open eaves with a wood fascia. Asbestos shingles cover the gable. A roll-up, four-light, paneled, vinyl door occupies the westernmost bay of the garage's façade (south elevation). Most of the easternmost bay is boarded up, with the exception of an open doorway located in its west end.

8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-607

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1925

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Summary Statement of Significance

The Kelley House displays a typical American four-square form, which, like the earlier I-house form, was popular nationally. In Queen Anne's County, four-squares are predominately found in towns like Chester, rather in the more rural parts of the county. The house was built in 1925 by Hilary D. Kelley and his wife Hilda I. Kelley, on land deeded to them that year by Mr. Kelley's parents, Rowena and Henry R. Kelley. Responding to the proliferation of the automobile in the late 1920s, Hilary Kelly and his brother Herman opened and ran "Kelley's Garage," which was located on the northeast corner of Maryland Route 18 (Main Street) and Maryland Route 552 (Dominion Road).

Historical Narrative

In 1925, Hilary and Hilda Kelley acquired the lot at 2507 Main Street from Mr. Kelley's parents, Rowena and Henry R. Kelley.¹ At the time of the 1920 U.S. census, Hilary Kelley and his wife both lived with his parents.² At that time, he and his father were both described as oystermen, specifically tongers.³ In the second half of the nineteenth century, the volume of commercial oystering and crabbing began to dramatically increase in the Chesapeake Bay region.⁴ The growth of the industry increased its allure as a profession, attracting a large number of practitioners like Hilary Kelley and his father, Henry Kelley. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, oyster-shucking houses and seafood-packing factories were also established throughout the county.⁵ This commercial growth affected all of the areas along the rivers and creeks of Queen Anne's County, particularly those on Kent Island. The maritime communities of Queen Anne's County such as Grasonville and Chester thrived as a result.

Hilary and Hilda Kelley likely constructed the four-square soon after purchasing the property in 1925. The Kelley House displays a typical American four square form, with its two and one half stories, square footprint, pyramidal roof, and full front porch. Typically, the interior plan of a four-square is composed of four rooms on each main floor. The four-square was popular nationally beginning in the 1890s, and continuing through the first decades of the twentieth century. Stylistically, the four square often displayed some combination of modest Craftsman and Colonial Revival detailing, a characteristic it shared with another popular form of the era, the

¹ See attached Chain of Title for this and all subsequent deed references.

² 1920 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 4, Kent Island, Enumeration District No. 78, Sheet No. 1A.

³ "Hand tongs were developed to pick up the oysters from a boat. Hand tongs are a long scissor-like tool with metal rakes on the ends. The waterman stands on the side of his boat, opens the tongs, and reaches to the bottom of the river. He closes the tongs, scooping the oysters between the rakes. He then lifts the tongs into the boat and dumps the oysters onto the culling board. The river might be fifteen or more feet deep. The tongs are very long, heavy, and hard to manage . . . [H]and tonging is hard, slow work. Sometimes each 'lick' of the tongs brings up only a few oysters. Even so, most of the oyster harvest from the Chesapeake is taken with hand tongs." "Watermen, Harvesting the Bounty: Oysters," *The Mariners' Museum - Newport News, Virginia* (Newport News, Va.: The Mariners' Museum, 2004), accessed 16 November 2007, <<http://mariner.org/chesapeakebay/waterman/wat009.html>>.

⁴ Robert J. Brugger, *Maryland: A Middle Temperament, 1634-1980* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988), pp. 321-328. A chart depicting the annual oyster harvest between 1840-1980 can be found in Brugger, *Maryland*, p. 786. Also Charles B. Clark, *The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia, Vol. II* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1950), pp. 871-874; Donald G. Shomette, "Kent Narrows Timeline" (Queen Anne's County Heritage Consortium, Chester, Md., 2004, photocopy).

⁵ Brugger, *Maryland*, pp. 321-328, 786.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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- Brugger, Robert J. *Maryland: A Middle Temperament 1634-1980*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1988.
- Clark, Charles B. *The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia, vol. II*. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1950.
- Shomette, Donald G. "Kent Narrows Timeline." Queen Anne's County Heritage Consortium, Chester, MD, 2004. Photocopy.
- U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, 1920.
- U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, 1930.
- "Watermen, Harvesting the Bounty: Oysters." *The Mariners' Museum - Newport News, Virginia*. Newport News, Va.: The Mariners' Museum, 2004 - [accessed 16 November 2007]. <<http://mariner.org/chesapeakebay/waterman/wat009.html>>.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	0.729 acres	
Acreage of historical setting	0.729 acres	
Quadrangle name	Kent Island	Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000 (7.5 minute)

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property boundary is defined by the current parcel boundaries shown on tax map 57, grid 10, parcel 154 in Queen Anne's County, Maryland.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Kathryn Gettings Smith, Director, Architectural History and Preservation Planning Gerald M. Maready, Jr., Architectural Historian		
organization	History Matters, LLC	date	November 16, 2007
street & number	1502 21 st Street, NW, 2 nd Floor	telephone	(202) 223-8845
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-607

Name: Hilary D. and Hilda I. Kelley House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

bungalow. Also like bungalows, four-square houses were often purchased from mail-order companies such as Sears, Roebuck and Company, which shipped a kit of construction materials to the local buyer. However, there is nothing to indicate that 2507 Main Street was a mail-order house as it does not conform to any known standardized plan. Like the earlier I-house form, the four-square was a commonly used house form for farmhouses and rural residences. In Queen Anne's County, however, the form seems to be most common in towns such as Chester. This may be due to Chester's proximity to the railroad, which made it easy to order and receive a house from a catalog, and also to see examples of the latest style.

By 1930, the Kelleys had moved into their new house, which stood adjacent to the residence of Hilary Kelley's parents.⁶ By that time, he had changed professions, and was a machinist in a garage. His brother, Herman H. Kelley, still living at home, was also a machinist, while their father, Henry Kelley, continued to tong for oysters. Hilary Kelley's change in profession may have been a consequence of a dramatic decline in Chesapeake Bay oyster harvests that took place in the 1920s.⁷ Despite the declines in oyster harvests, large numbers of watermen continued to ply their trade in the waters of Queen Anne's County through the 1950s.⁸ Responding to the proliferation of the automobile in the late 1920s, Hilary Kelly and his brother Herman opened and ran "Kelley's Garage," which was located on the northeast corner of Maryland Route 18 (Main Street) and Maryland Route 552 (Dominion Road).

⁶ 1930 U.S. Population Census, Queen Anne's County, Maryland, District 4, Enumeration District No. 18-8, Sheet No. 11B.

⁷ Brugger, *Maryland*, pp. 461-462, 786.

⁸ Clark, *Eastern Shore*, pp. 871-874.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. QA-607

Name: Hilary D. and Hilda I. Kelley House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Chain of Title

22 December 2004

Grantor: Hilda Mae Porter, et al.

Grantee: Kitty's Corner, LLC

Liber SM 1413, folio 115

"... in consideration of the sum of Two Hundred Forty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$240,000.00) . . ."

This deed mentions all three parcels of land: the residential property, the Kelley's Garage property, and the property conveyed by Herman Kelley to Hilda Kelley in 1963. The property description is contained in an "Exhibit A," and appears to be the property description from the 1980 deed. It is not clear if the Garage property was included in this deed in error, or if it was excluded from the 1996 deed in error.

5 July 1996

Grantor: Lola M. Kelley, personal rep. of estate of Earl D. Kelley, decd.

Grantee: Lola M. Kelley

Liber SM 552, folio 494

Earl Kelley died 10 December 1994; one-quarter interest in property conveyed to [daughter?] Lola M. Kelley. The deed concerns two tracts: the Hilary and Hilda Kelley Residential Property, and the property conveyed to Hilda Kelley by Herman Kelley in 1963. The Kelley's Garage property appears to have been sold.

27 August 1980

Grantor: Hilda I. Kelley

Grantee: Hilda Mae Porter, Ava K. Honeycutt, Elizabeth K. Dawkins, and Earl D. Kelley

Liber MWM 167, folio 326

Tract One consists of two parcels: Parcel 1: the Kelley Residential property; and Parcel 2: the Kelley's Garage property. Tract Two is the property conveyed in the 1963 deed from Herman Kelley to Hilda Kelley.

The grantees appear to consist of Hilda Kelley's heirs. Earl Kelley and Hilda Mae [Kelley] Porter, at least, are Hilary and Hilda Kelley's children, appearing in the 1930 U.S. Population Census with them.

4 November 1963

Grantor: Herman H. Kelley [Hilary Kelley's brother]

Grantee: Hilda I. Kelley

Liber CWC 4, folio 509

17,860 sq ft [Tract two of later deeds]

30 October 1959

Grantor: Frances C. Legg

Grantee: Hilary D. and Hilda I. Kelley (husband and wife)

Liber TSP 51, folio 363

30 October 1959

Grantor: Hilary D. Kelley and Hilda I. Kelley (husband and wife)

Grantee: Frances C. Legg

Liber TSP 51, folio 361

Parcel No. 1: "all that lot and parcel of land, improved by a two story frame dwelling house, known as 'THE HILARY D. KELLEY AND HILDA I. KELLEY RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY [sic] . . . bounded on the west by the lands of Herman H. Kelley, bounded on the north by the lands of Herman H. Kelley, and bounded on the east by the lands of Herman H. Kelley . . ." No acreage noted for Parcel No. 1.

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Name: Hilary D. and Hilda I. Kelley House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

Parcel No. 2: "all that lot and parcel of land, improved by a concrete block Garage and Service Station known as 'KELLEY'S GARAGE' . . . in or near the village of Chester, at the junction of the state road leading from the Narrows to Stevensville (being Route 18) with the public road leading therefrom [*sic*] to Chester Station (being Route 552 [*sic*]." On the northeast corner of Md. Route 18 (Main Street) and Md. Route 552 (Dominion Road), containing approximately one-half acre.

22 April 1925

Grantor: Rowena Kelley and H.R. Kelley (wife and husband)

Grantee: H.D. Kelley

Liber BHT 3, folio 335

no mention of existing improvements

acreage not noted

Site Plan

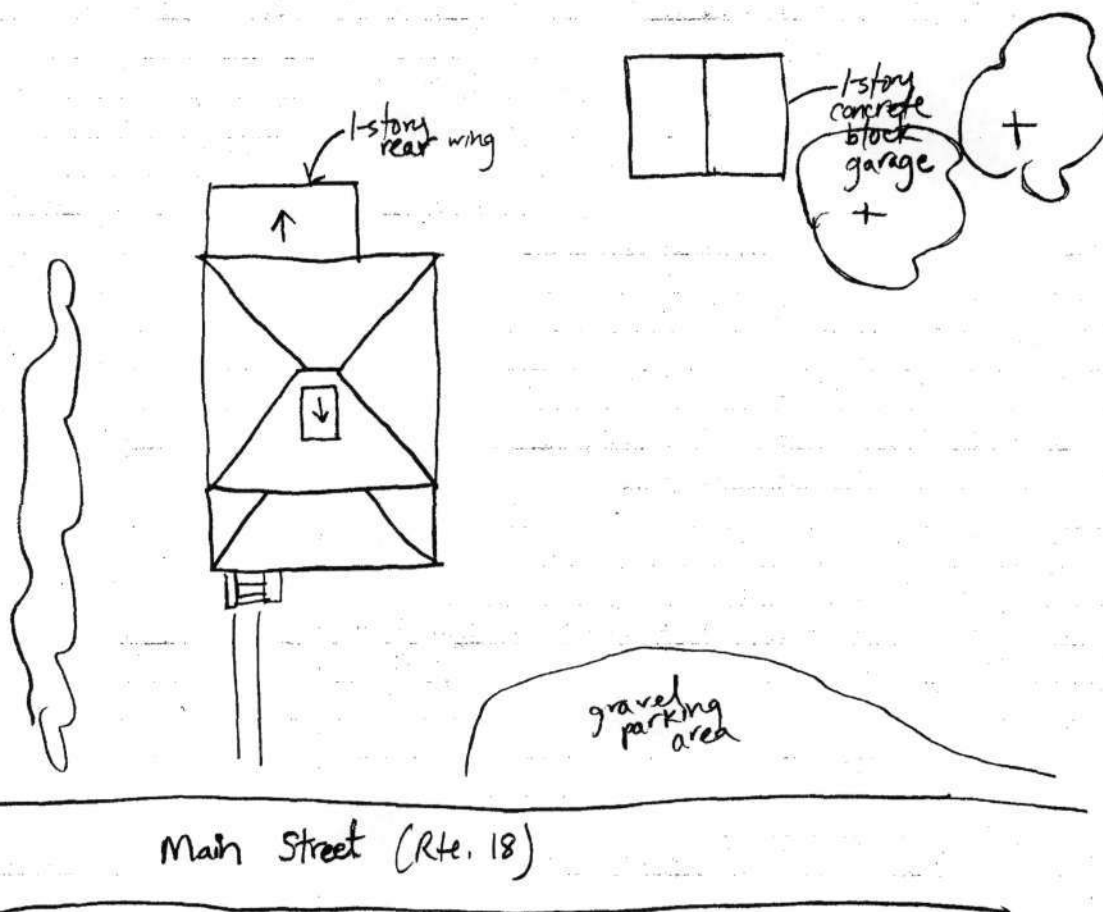
QA-607

Hilary D. and Hilda I. Kelley House

2507 Main Street

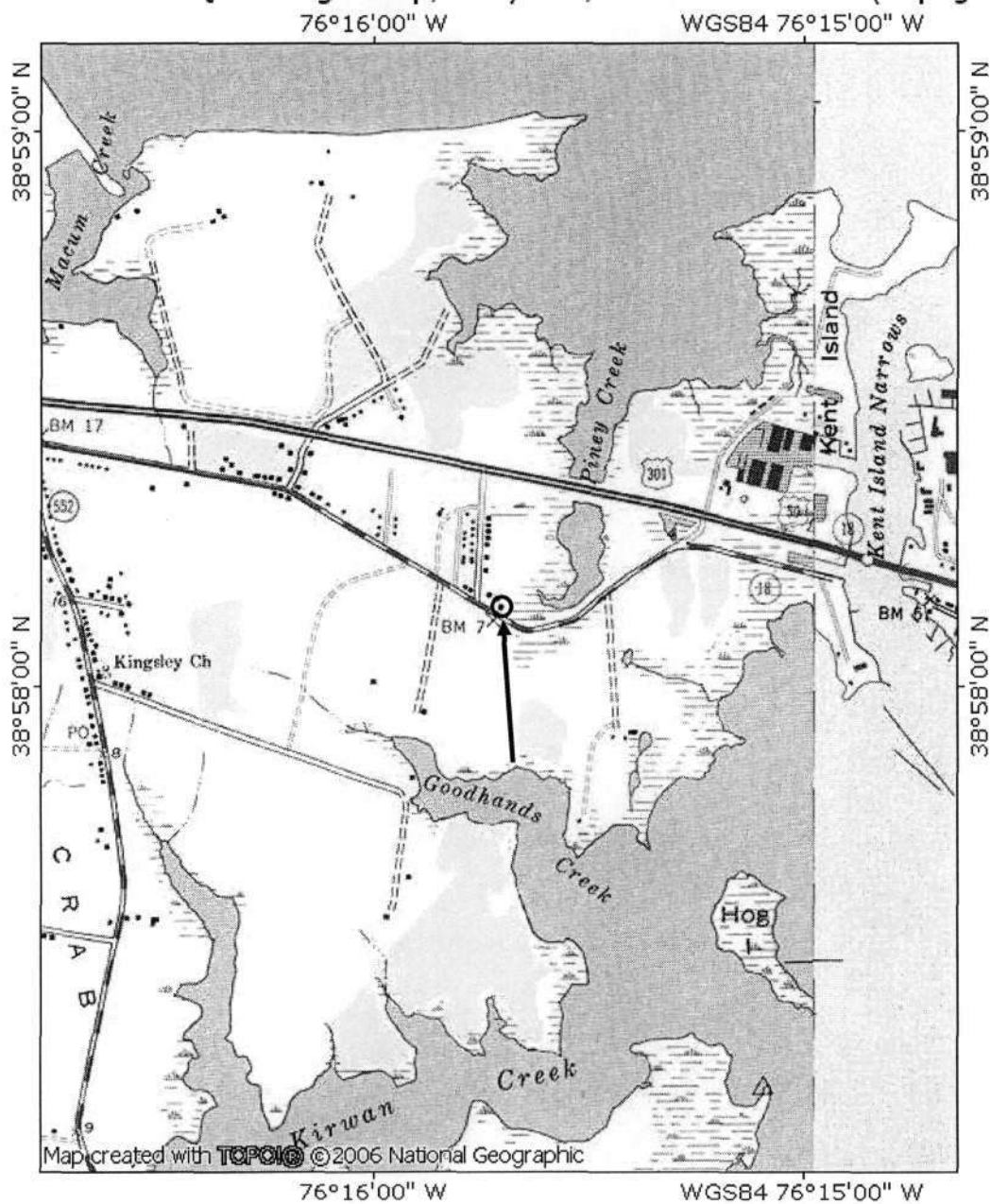
Chester

Queen Anne's County, Maryland



not to scale

USGS Kent Island Quadrangle Map, Maryland, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic)



QA-607
Hilary D. and Hilda I. Kelley House
 2507 Main Street
 Chester
 Queen Anne's County

0.0 0.5 1.0 miles
 0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 km

MN T
 11½°
 07/30/07



QA-607

Hilary D. and Hilda I. Kelley House
2507 Main Street, Chester
Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters LLC

6/2007

Maryland SHPO

Facades - House + Garage, Looking N

1 of 4



QA-607

Hilary D. and Hilda I. Kelley House

2507 Main Street, Chester

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

6/2007

Maryland SHPO

South + East elevations, Looking NW

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QA-607

Hilary D. and Hilda I. Kelley House

2507 Main Street, Chester

Queen Anne's County, MD

History Matters, LLC

6/2007

Maryland SHPO

West + south elevations, Looking NE

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QA-607

Hilary D. and Hilda I. Kelley House
2507 Main Street, Chester

Queen Anne's County, MD
History Matters, LLC

6/2007

Maryland SHPO

Garage, south elevation, Looking N

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